

ArborTags



The leaves are simple untoothed oblongs, pointed at the tip. Between 2-5 inches long they are shiny and dark green above, and paler beneath. Unlike the Blackgum, they are broader at the base, and unlike the Dogwood they grow in an alternate pattern.

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Maclura pomifera

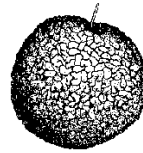
Osage Orange

Hedge Apple

Maclura pomifera

Osage Orange

Hedge Apple



The fruit is unique to this tree: a heavy yellow-green ball up to 5 inches in diameter. When crushed the fruit yields a milky juice similar to the milky mulberry sap.

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A medium sized tree it often has multiple crooked trunks forming an open, irregular crown. The twigs are armed with a single sharp spine, occasionally an inch long growing at a leaf base.

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Due to their spines, rows of these trees were used as barriers in the Western grasslands before the advent of barbed wire. The inner bark is yellow and was used as a dye for cloth. The Osage Indians used the supple inner wood for bows.

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